an orphans' court and generally hears cases appealed from the circuit courts (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, sec. 12–308). Judges of the Court are empowered to sit in panels of three. A hearing or rehearing of a case before the whole Court may be ordered in any case by a majority of the Court's incumbent judges. The Court also considers applications for leave to appeal in such areas as post conviction, habeas corpus matters involving denial of excessive bail, and inmate grievances (Code Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, secs. 1–401 through 1–403).

The Court of Special Appeals sits in Annapolis. Originally composed of five members, the Court now consists of thirteen judges. One member of the Court is elected from each of the first five Appellate Judicial Circuits while two members are elected from the Sixth Appellate Judicial Circuit (Baltimore City). The remaining six judges are elected from the State at large. Members of the Court of Special Appeals are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Thereafter, they run on their records without formal opposition for a ten-year term of office. The Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals is designated by the Governor.

The clerk of the Court of Special Appeals is appointed by the Court. The clerk maintains the docket, receives the records and briefs of all appeals filed with the Court, and maintains official custody of the decisions of the Court.

CIRCUIT COURT OF MARYLAND

1ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties—6 Judges

Lloyd L. Simpkins, Chief Judge and Circuit
Administrative Judge Somerset, 1991
Dale R. Cathell Worcester, 1997
Theodore R. Eschenburg, Sr. Worcester, 1999
Donald F. Johnson Dorchester, 2001
D. William Simpson Wicomico, 1988
Alfred T. Truitt, Jr. Wicomico, 1993

2ND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties —6 Judges

J. Owen Wise, Chief Judge and Circuit
Administrative Judge Caroline 1999
Clayton C. Carter Queen Anne's, 1995

Donaldson C. Cole, Jr.	Cecil, 1995
John C. North II	Talbot, 1999
Edward D. E. Rollins, Jr.	Cecil, 1999
one vacancy	

3RD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Baltimore and Harford counties-17 Judges

Frank E. Cicone, Chief Administrative Judge Maurice W. Baldwin, Jr. William R. Buchanan, Sr. Brodnax Cameron, Jr. William O. Carr Edward A. DeWaters, Jr. John F. Fader II A. Owen Hennegan J. William Hinkel Leonard S. Jacobson Dana M. Levitz Joseph F. Murphy, Jr. William M. Nickerson	Baltimore, 1989 Harford, 1988 Baltimore, 1993 Harford, 2001 Baltimore, 1991 Baltimore, 1997 Baltimore, 1999 Baltimore, 1997 Baltimore, 1999 Baltimore, 2001 Baltimore, 2001 Baltimore, 2001 Baltimore, 2001
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4TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Allegany, Garrett, and Washington counties—6
Judges

Frederick A. Thayer III, Chief Judge

Garrett, 1993
Frederick C. Wright III, Circuit Administrative
Judge Washington, 1995
John P. Corderman
Gary G. Leasure Allegany, 1999
Daniel W. Moylan Washington, 1997
J. Frederick Sharer Allegany, 1997

5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard counties—15
Judges

Morris Turk, Chief Judge Raymond G. Thieme, Jr.,	Anne Arundel, 1991
Judge	Anne Arundel, 1993
Luke K. Burns, Jr.	Carroll, 1995
James C. Cawood, Jr.	Anne Arundel, 1999
Guy J. Cicone	Howard, 1988
Robert F. Fischer	Howard, 1993
Donald J. Gilmore	Carroll, 1993
H. Chester Goudy, Jr.	Anne Arundel, 1993
Robert S. Heise	Anne Arundel, 1993